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is, however, not such an unwieldy number of species to afford an excuse for generic splitting, as is the case with the agarics, and there is practically nothing but habit and external form to lay hold of in limiting species and attempting generic segregations. Specimens were shown illustrating the principal sectional or sub-generic groups.

The Codiaceae were illustrated by specimens of *Codium*, *Avrainvillea*, *Penicillus*, *Rhipocephalus*, *Udotea* and *Halimeda*. The genera *Penicillus* and *Rhipocephalus* are especially well represented in the Bahama Islands. Four species of *Penicillus* and two of *Rhipocephalus* were shown, all of which were found growing within a mile radius in Bemini Harbor, Bahamas. One of these is supposed to be the species described from the Bahamas by Decaisne in 1842 as *Penicillus oblongus* and apparently not met with in the meantime. This species was transferred to the genus *Rhipocephalus* by Kuetzing. In reality, it stands between the genera *Penicillus* and *Rhipocephalus* and weakens the distinction between them. It is easily a *Rhipocephalus* when it is young, but as it gets older becomes more like a *Penicillus* and might then be casually passed by as a form of the common *Penicillus capitatus*. The head, however, is usually more oblong than in that species, the branching of the threads of the brush is characteristic, and the arrangement of the threads in the apical or younger part of the brush is always distinctive.

Among the species and forms of *Halimeda* exhibited was one from the Florida Keys which is soon to be described as a new species. This has been confused with *Halimeda Tuna* by both American and foreign students of the genus, but is readily distinguished from that and other described species, by the fact that the surface of each cortical tube or "cell" is drawn out into a strong spine.

WILLIAM T. HORNE,
Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. George R. Lyman, of the department of botany of Dartmouth College, has been advanced to the rank of Assistant Professor.

Mr. Alfred Akerman, of the Yale Forest School, has been appointed to the newly created office of state forester of Massachusetts, the appointment dating from August 1.

Part II of Dr. A. J. Grout's "Mosses with Hand-lens and Microscope" was issued late in May. This completes the Dicranaceae, includes the Grimmiaceae and Ephemeraceae, and begins the Tortulaceae.

Professor Volney M. Spalding has arranged to continue, during the coming winter, at the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, the special line of research which he began there last year.

We learn from *Science* that Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock has been compelled by ill health to resign the position of forestry commissioner of the state of Pennsylvania, and the vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Robert S. Conklin.

Mr. Howard J. Banker, for several years past instructor in the Southwestern State Normal School of Pennsylvania, is spending the summer in study at the New York Botanical Garden. In September he takes up his new duties as professor of biology in DePauw University.

Announcement was made in the daily press, during the last week in July, of the death of Dr. Rodolfo Amando Philippi, at the age of 95 years. Born and educated in Germany, he settled in Chile in 1851, and made that country his permanent home. For many years he was director of the Museo Nacional, at Santiago de Chile (a position now held by his son); and by his death South America loses one of her most famous botanists.

Mr. Roland M. Harper returned in June from Georgia, where he had been engaged in field-work for about seven months. The first four months were occupied in the collection of tree-specimens for the Georgia State exhibit at St. Louis; the remainder of the time, in continuation of his phytogeographical exploration of the coastal plain. An opportunity was thus afforded for a study of the spring flora of this region, which has been but little known.